



946	Number	Author Bruce W. Plowman	11/16/07
		Title 2007 Raccoon Road-Kill Survey	

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Raccoon road-kill surveys are conducted in Indiana during the months of March, July and August to index regional and statewide (Figure 1) raccoon populations. Conservation Officers and Wildlife Biologists record the number seen, sex and age of road-killed raccoons while conducting daily operations.

A total of 3,792 raccoons was observed road-killed in Indiana during 982,574 miles of travel observation in March, July and August 2007. The resulting statewide index of 39 road-killed raccoons per 10,000 miles of travel observation slightly decreased from 2006 (Table 1). Indices decreased between years for all regions except the north central. Relative abundance of raccoons is greater in the northern half of the state.

The statewide index for adult raccoons (i.e., the breeding portion of the population) was at an all time high during March 2007 (39 raccoons per 10,000 miles). Juvenile:adult (57:100) and juvenile:adult female (172:100) ratios for July and August decreased from 2006 and have exhibited a declining trend over a 10-year period (Figure 2). These data suggest that fewer young are added to the population as the proportion of adult raccoons become more abundant. From long-term data, the statewide raccoon population appears to have stabilized below historically high indices but remains at an elevated level (Figure 3).

Acknowledgement is due for all Division of Fish & Wildlife and Division of Enforcement personnel who continue to participate with and support the raccoon road-kill survey.

Table 1. Comparison of statewide and regional raccoon road-kill indices between March, July and August 2006 and 2007 in Indiana.

2006				2007		
District	No. of Miles	No. of Raccoon	No. Per 10,000 Miles	No. of Miles	No. of Raccoons	No. Per 10,000 Miles
NW	144,321	769	49	168,016	754	45
NE	146,484	739	45	168,484	703	42
NC	104,618	578	50	135,879	790	58
SW	105,300	263	22	113,812	242	21
SC	221,989	844	35	230,149	704	31
SE	144,081	636	39	166,234	599	36
Statewide	866,793	3,829	40	982,574	3,792	39



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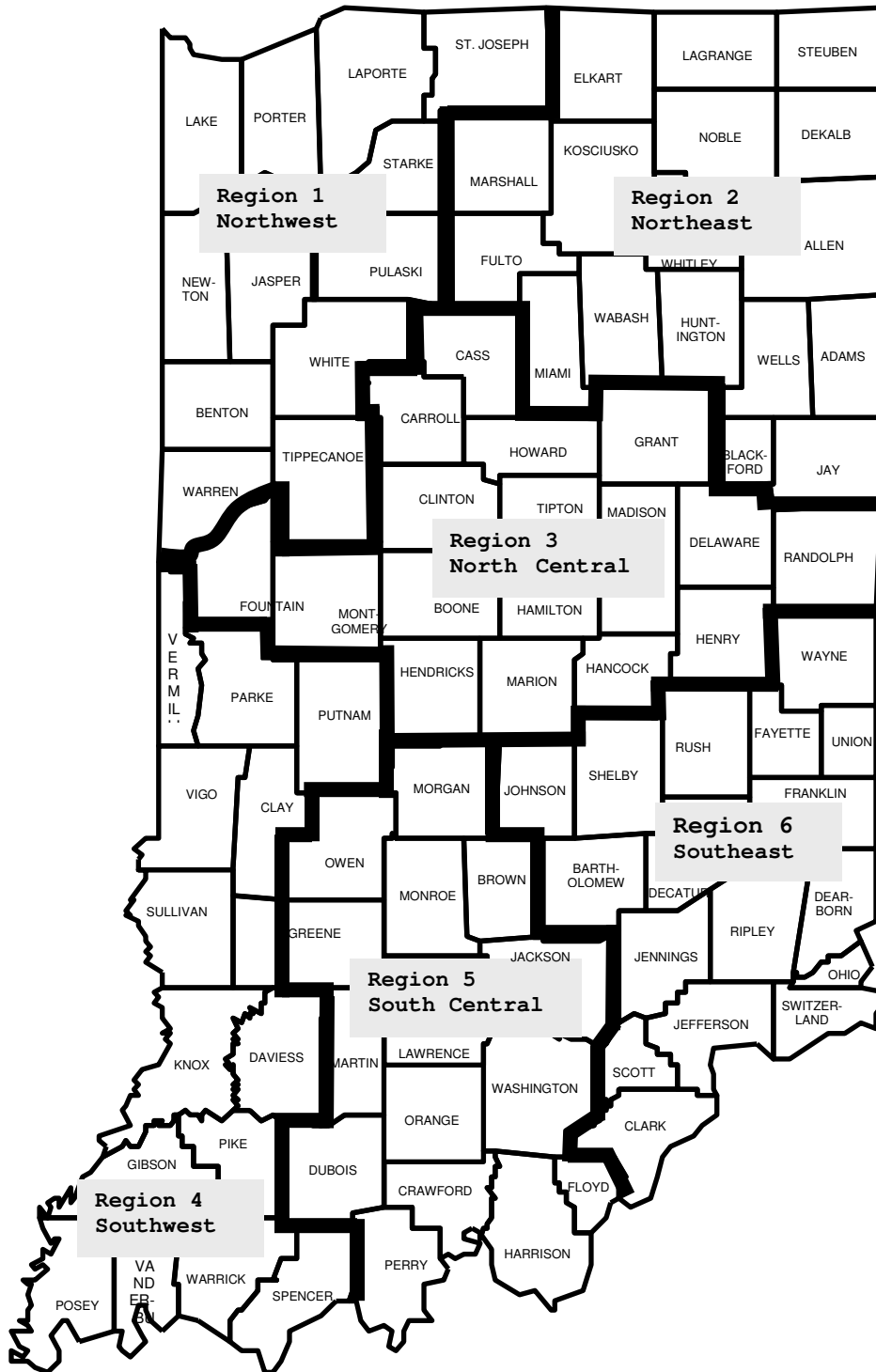


Figure 1. Indiana fur harvest regions.

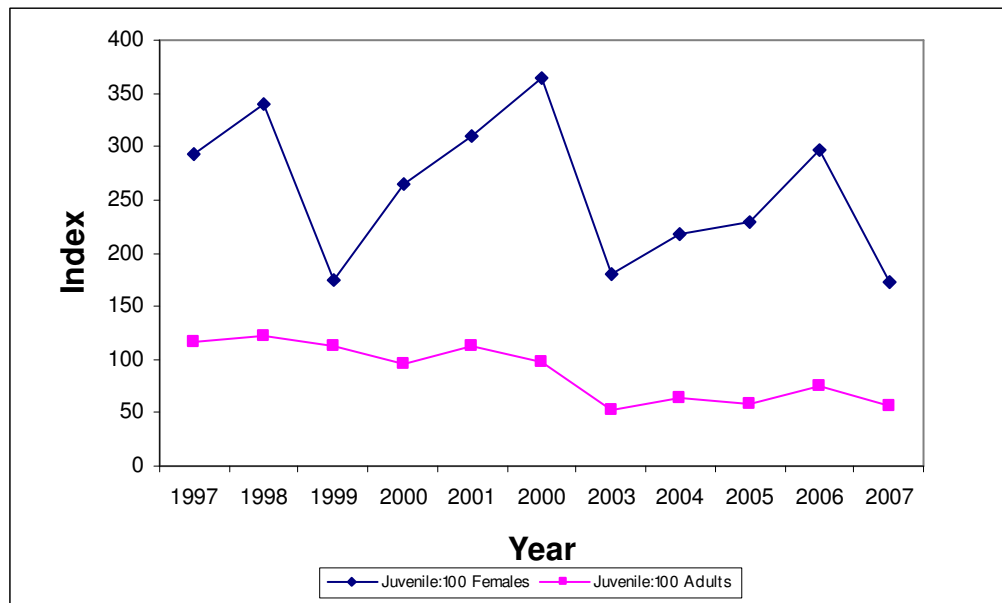


Figure 3. Juvenile:Adult Female and Juvenile:Adult ratios of raccoons observed road-killed per 10,000 miles of travel observation in Indiana from 1997 to 2007.

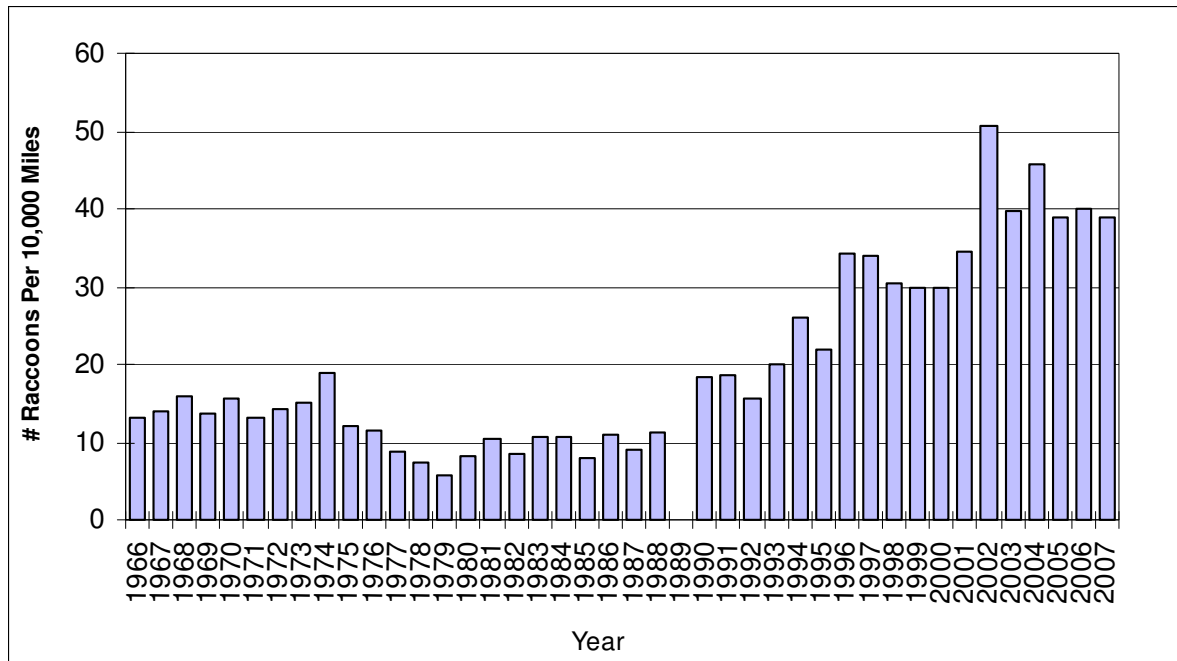


Figure 3. Number of road-killed raccoons observed per 10,000 miles traveled in Indiana from 1966 to 2007.